THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Government have seen reports in the media concerning US pressure on Russian as regards the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. There has been no change in the Russian attitude towards the Kudankulam Project.

Issues raised by India at the WEF, Davos

1238. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues put forward by India at the World Economic Forum that was held recently at Davos and the response to each of these issues;

(b) whether the Prime Minister also held separate meetings with other heads of Governments; and

(c) if so, the outcome of these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The purpose of India's presence at the World Economic Forum at Davos recently was not to raise "issues" but to inform the participating corporate leaders and others that:—

The economic reforms initiated in India based on national consensus would continue;

India offers excellent opportunities for forging partnership through investments, technology transfers, joint ventures and trade on a mutually beneficial basis;

Partnership between the developed economies and less developed economies based on mutual benefits essential for economic progress across the globe;

Asia pacific is an emerging region of the 21st century and would be a driving force of the global economy in future;

The need of the poorer sections of our society and investment in the social sectors would continue to receive special focus;

New Policy measures and further reforms particularly in the area of infrastructure would receive special attention.

The response from corporate leaders and the business community was positive.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister had separate bilateral meetings with the Heads of State/Governments of Russia, Cambodia, Israel and Egypt. Ministers from Switzerland and the UK also called on our PM, PM also met several Corporate leaders and media persons separately.

These meetings were productive. Discussions focussed mainly on furthering bilateral economic and commercial cooperation and foreign investments.

Reviewing India's Foreign Policy

1239. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the present linkages of economic policy along with foreign affairs, Government propose to revise the Foreign Policy towards China, USA, Russia, Pakistan and other countries with which India wants to extend cordial relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to revise its foreign policy *vis-a-vis* Economic Policy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) The liberalisation of economy and efforts to integrate it with the global economy have opened up a range of possibilities and have offered new forms of beneficial association with countries abroad. The principal objective of the Government's foreign policy is to extend a hand of friendship to all the countries of the world and to develop friendly and mutually beneficial relationship with them.